

REMARKS

Drawings Objections

Replacement sheets for Figures 2-6 are submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

A substitute specification is submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the specification objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims have been amended above solely to comply with the Examiner's suggestions for overcoming the claim objections. Withdrawal of the of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 7-17 and 21-23 include allowable subject matter. Claims 1-6 and 18-20 stand rejected. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fasoli (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,197) (hereinafter "Fasoli"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, “a controller for activating the sense amplifier enable signal *when the first decoding signal is generated.*” The Office Action contends that col. 6, lines 36-50 and Figure 2 of Fasoli disclose the recited portion of claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Figure 2 of Fasoli does not indicate that the control circuit (23) activates a sense amplifier signal “*when the first decoding signal is generated,*” as essentially claimed in claim 1. The Office Action’s reliance on col. 6, lines 36-50 of Fasoli does not cure the above deficiency. Particularly, the recited portion of Fasoli describes that a control circuit (23) determines whether the sector (3) is modify protected, and if the control circuit (23) determines that the sector (3) is not modify protected and that the memory cells to be modified are not memory cells (20a), then the control circuit (23) controls, among other components, the sense amplifiers (9). Nothing in the recited portion of Fasoli discloses “activating the sense amplifier enable signal *when the first decoding signal is generated,*” as claimed in claim 1.

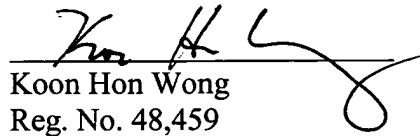
Regarding claim 18, the Office Action does not address, *inter alia*, the claimed “comparison detecting signal.” Each and every claim limitation must be addressed to establish *prima facie* anticipation. Nevertheless, the recited portions of Fasoli do not disclose “comparing data read from the one-time programming region *to generate a comparison detecting signal* when the one-time programming region is accessed,” “stopping the write operation *when the comparison detecting signal is not activated,*” and “writing data in the one-time programming region *when the one-time programming region is not accessed or the comparison detecting signal is activated.*”

Accordingly, in view of the above, independent claims 1 and 18 are believed to be patentably distinguishable and nonobvious over Fasoli. Claims 2 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fasoli in view of AAPA. Dependent claims 2-6 and 19-20 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claims 1 and 18. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 18-20 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Koon Hon Wong
Reg. No. 48,459
Attorney for Applicants

F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLC
130 Woodbury Road
Woodbury, New York 11797
Telephone: (516) 692-8888
Facsimile: (516) 692-8889